DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

MR. RUMLEY: All right. Let's go ahead and get started here. I appreciate all of y'all staying for the work session. Before we get started, Robert, I'll ask you to lead us in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, please.

(Thereupon, the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Robert. This is the regularly scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission which takes place at the same time on the first Thursday of every month. Proper notice of this meeting was given to our legal organ of the Dade County Sentinel and has been posted in the hallway of the Administration Building. At this time I need a roll call. Mr. Cervelli?

MR. CERVELLI: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

MR. GOFF: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: The chair is here.

Mr. Pittman is absent. Mitchell, we'll start with you on our committee reports.

MR. SMITH: As Don said a while ago, the request for proposal is out for the ambulance

service. It's a mandatory prebid. Here
September 8th at 10:00 a.m. and the thing is you
get to know all the players, which is a good thing.
You know who all is looking at it, who all is
involved and we get to know ahead of time, which to
me is the best thing of the process. If you wish to
look at the RFP, you can go to the county website,
push on the online services tab. It's on the
left-hand side. It works better than the one across
the top, or has for me. Okay. Once you get there,
you'll get the bid opportunities and as far as I
know, that's the only thing under bid opportunities
at this time.

What the RFP is requesting, just sort of briefly, real quick, is at least two ambulance crews 24 hours a day, seven days a week and one supervisor with the responsibility of 12 hours a day, seven days a week. That's one option. And within that option, there's to provide housing and without housing. Option two is one ambulance 24 hours a day and one ambulance crew 12 hours a day seven days a week with a supervisor eight hours a day on five days a week and with the same housing and nonhousing option. So it's on the website and my cheat sheet that I have here, little book, we'll

make sure that it's in the commissioner's office.

If you don't have a computer, can't look it up, you can look at that there in the office anytime.

MR. RUMLEY: Why don't you just take that home and tell them they can come to your house anytime. I've got one in here. That would be better. I appreciate that, Mitchell. Do you have anything else?

MR. SMITH: No.

MR. RUMLEY: It is an important thing, this contract Mitchell was explaining to you because that's -- that could be the difference in life and death in this county. So far we've been, you know, pretty well pleased with our group we've got here, you know, Lifeguard, but we felt as a Commission, it's time to go ahead and bid it out. It's really critical. It's something you need to really keep up with and we'll keep you informed. Robert?

MR. GOFF: All right. One thing this week, I was invited to go, as many commissioners were, to a meeting. I wasn't sure what it was all about. It was in Atlanta and what is happening is ACCG is beginning a committee. They have about six committees that work on different issues more or less on the county and state level, but they're

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forming a committee to look at what happens on the federal level that comes down to the states, which all of us usually know, if that happens, come down to the state ultimately to a county, it's an unfunded mandate, meaning that you do it, you find the money somewhere.

As far as the federal government and Washington, obviously they're notorious for being able to print what they need, but some of the things that are happening and I want to give a little recognition to it, to Dade County because of the employees, some of the employees we have and one of those is Alex Case. You've heard us talking about or you've heard Alex several times over the last couple of years talking about the new radios and the responders and all that's happening. Well, one of those things that they're doing and Alex and I were talking about it earlier. One of the things that's come down is the narrow banding.

I don't understand band width and all this stuff, but what they're doing is they have given a mandate to narrow the band by 50 percent by 2012 and then after that to narrow it down again, bringing counties down, and Alex, correct me if I'm wrong, down to ultimately about 12 percent. And

77%

what it's going to do and the reason I, you know, say thank you to Alex is we have looked and are preparing for this to happen in Dade County, but a lot of counties have not had it as a S.P.L.O.S.T. issue, the revenue coming in for it and they're going to have to do it just the same, meaning the radios and towers, everything is going to have to change.

So that's what they're doing at the ACCG is looking at those type issues and working with the counties as well as NACO to express our displeasure with such things. They're pretty much saying the narrow banding for 2012 to 2013 is going to happen regardless, but thank you, Alex and thank Dade County, the citizens that ultimately fund it through -- and everybody coming through and buying a hamburger and traveling through with S.P.L.O.S.T has funded this.

But some of the things that I'll keep you posted on as well as I can because some of them, they would ask you to call your congressman and I don't know if you ever do or e-mail them. For instance, one is in the United States Military is currently considering taking 100,000 acres to expand military bases. Well, that's a good thing, I guess.

I don't know. We don't have that kind of land here, but obviously the problem is wherever they take that land, it becomes federal land, which is now currently owned by private citizens who pay taxes on it. You imagine if Dade County lost the tax revenue in the strapped condition we're in now of 20,000 acres or 50,000 acres of good land, prime land to the federal government and we're no longer getting ad valorem tax off of that. So these things are just eating away a little bit more at already strapped budgets.

So that is -- I was glad to be able to go and hear because a lot of these things are so far out. Again, like, Alex, he started talking two, two and a half years ago about them. Well, they were still such a long way out and they just kind of sneak in eventually. You don't hear any more about them until it happens and then governments, county governments have to look somewhere for that kind of money to be able to do it. So that's just a couple of issues. There's more if you would like to look at some of them.

One of them that would really hurt and we talked about is the retroreflectivity of our signs. They were looking at making you just totally

take down your signs, road signs, put up new signs. Can you imagine the cost to a county and city to do all that? But I did read yesterday they're kind of backing up on that and they're leaving it up to when a sign is needed, when it has grown dim or been hit by a vehicle or whatever reason you have to put up a new sign, that you do put up that sign and we're ready to do that, too, but thank goodness we won't have to go out and begin to just arbitrarily change a lot of signs just to comply with the federal government.

And on a little happier note, and that's all I'll say, is if you want to know who's causing this, it's us, us baby boomers. We want to be able to see those signs a little bit better as we grow older and that's the truth. So it's all about us. Thank you.

MR. RUMLEY: And the reason they're wanting us to change them though is they want bigger signs, bigger letters and more reflective signs, you know.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MR}}\xspace$. GOFF: So us old folks can see them.

MR. RUMLEY: Not just stop signs. We're talking about street signs.

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MR. GOFF: Right. Any sign.

MR. RUMLEY: And also comment on your -- you were talking about the radios, the 800 radios. You can compare this to the -- a few years ago when they told you you can't watch regular TV anymore. That's done now. The only way you can do it is if you get the receiver, I think, put it on your TV. It's the same thing. They're not asking us to do it. They're saying it's happening.

MR. GOFF: They're telling you you're going to.

MR. RUMLEY: Peter?

MR. CERVELLI: Okay. Let's talk about finances. They're the most exciting topic. As you probably heard if you were here earlier, we're not prepared to talk about closing the books on last fiscal year, June 30th, 2011. Given the number of the -- the million dollar check came in, that's got to be added back into the books for last year and so we want to make sure all our revenues and expenses are in the right place. So we'll do that at a special-called meeting that will happen hopefully within a week or two.

In terms of our sales tax collections,

I'm still amazed that this August we received a

check for about \$175,943. That's about \$20,000 more than we got last year at the same time, about an 11 percent growth. It's less than July by a little bit, but if you look at the trend and I only look at the trend because month to month you never know.

We've got a trend going here that our sales tax collections are going up and I don't know why. And whether it will hold or not, I don't know, but there really is a trend now and maybe it's related to the tornado. Maybe trucks are really on the roads again. I understand from talking to somebody in the trucking business that they say they're a pretty good indicator of economic activity and trucks are rolling. So maybe they're buying a lot of fuel here.

So in terms of our sales tax collections, remarkably better than I would have expected. And on the S.P.L.O.S.T side, we collected \$219,900 approximately and since we reduced our expectations on S.P.L.O.S.T because it wasn't going well, we said we're going to budget now on the assumption that we're only going to get about \$185,000 a month and we've been blowing that out of the water for the last three months and so that's a good thing when you can actually have a budget when

you're actually bringing in more than you expected. Whether it will continue, I don't know.

As I said on last year's fiscal budget, which closed through June 2011, that million dollar, million and three check from FEMA will go into that last year's budget because that's on the book for expenses. So we'll have a much better look at what -- how we ended the year shortly.

In terms of the current budget, which we only set a little while ago, we've gone through -- if you were here earlier, we've gone through every department, every constitutional officer's budget line by line. We didn't do an across the board cut. We examined what was possible and what we didn't think was possible and we're on the road of somewhere around \$600,000 right now. As Ted said earlier, before we lock that in, we want to make sure everybody is going to be able to actually do what we say -- the budget says they need to do and we hope to have that closed about -- within a week or so.

And so I give credit to everybody who's had to give up something to make this happen and it won't be easy. This is not going to be an easy execution. But I'm very pleased with where we came

out, better than I thought we would.

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The only other thing I would like to say, you reminded me of this, Robert, is I went to a meeting in Rome on what would make Georgia more competitive in terms of bringing industry to the state. As you know, trying to bring industry to any state is -- every state is competing against every other state for businesses and jobs and the question is what will bring people to the state of Georgia and they're doing this regionally, so I can only speak for the region that we're in and there was a lot of electronic voting and discussion about what would be the most -- what one thing that we could do to make a difference in the state of Georgia and there were some things that were remarkably silly, but what came out, and I was very pleased to see this, it was a recognition across the board that the one thing we believe needs to happen is education in the state needs to be improved greatly.

We are not competitive when it comes to our citizens being able to be employed and I hope the governor takes that information. Hopefully he'll get the same message from other parts of the state and we look at -- everybody doesn't have to go to college. That's not the issue. We talked a lot

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about vocational training for people actually having a skill they could use and so I hope that we might see something come out of that that will, in fact, help improve the ability for our children to actually be skilled enough to get a job here in the state of Georgia. That's all I have.

MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Thank you, Peter.

As Peter said, we spent a lot of time on this budget and trying to be prepared to actually adopt a new budget. I really can't say enough about our constitutional officers, elected officials, the sheriff. It's hard and not only them, but the people that's working for the county because when you say furlough, you know, we're shutting down, a lot of people think it's just another day off, but these people are sacrificing and they do. I found that they do appreciate their jobs because, you know, it's either do this or -- you know, you can look at it either way or actually start cutting employees and right now we're handling it this way. Hopefully in the future, in another year we'll look at it again in 2012 and hopefully revenue will pick up. Hopefully like Peter said, it's not just a trend. Maybe it's here to stay.

The FEMA money, that was really good

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news yesterday. Alex picked the check up, as you heard us say, and we're on our way with that and hopefully we can turn it and maybe next month or a special meeting we can give you another good report on that.

We do have a report tonight or I do on the jail kitchen. Patrick is not here tonight, but he's kind of taken the lead on this because he is the sheriff, but I do want to let you know we do have some preliminary prints in the back here. Alex has been working real hard on that. We should have a full set here before too long. We're going to actually start demoing on the kitchen next week, Monday. We would like to start tomorrow, but probably Monday our crew is going to start demoing on that. That will be a reality here hopefully in a couple of months. It will probably take two to three months to finish it, but we should have that up and running and that's going to be a tremendous savings. It will be well over \$100,000 that we'll be saving on that.

Our inmate population has picked up in the last month or so and we're back up to about \$4,200 a week that it's costing to feed these prisoners, so you can add that up. That's a lot of

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money and that's your money and our money that we're spending.

The DJJ, that's good news. That will be some more revenue, about \$1,000 a month or so.

We hope to have that in by this time next month.

Maybe we'll have that up and have those people moved in.

Forestry and land swap, that's a good deal for the county. We're letting them move down to the four fields. That's something I meant to tell y'all, too. They did ask for -- they had to have one more acre. Rather than two, it's three. The reason being is because the rock up there, but they're actually going in and it's going to take more land and everything to do what they want to do, which is not a big deal because the little small piece of property there right beside the property that we're going to get right now, it's for sale for 250,000, so, you know, it's about the same size lot that we've got. So if you figure that comparatively to that three acres, we're getting a good deal, I feel. Plus we're keeping our forestry here in Dade County.

And I just want to thank Don and Peter, all of the commissioners here. We've all put a lot

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of time and a lot of effort here not only in our original budget process, but in the process of actually going back and relooking at this thing. I know I keep repeating myself on that. Peter does, too, but this is big. This is something -- it's like your household. You don't spend money you don't have. You've got to have the foresight to see what's going on and you don't wait until you get in a bind to actually start correcting. So we're right here at the beginning of the year. You know, June was our new fiscal year, so we're giving this a whole year for the people -- not just putting it on the last two months. And I just want to thank -because Don has spent -- I don't even think his wife knows what he looks like. He hasn't been home early enough.

MR. SMITH: That may be a blessing for her.

MR. RUMLEY: It may be. I didn't think of that, Mitchell. I do want to say I do appreciate it.

MR. CERVELLI: Yeah. We've made a significant dent where our costs are going to be over what we could have taken in on revenue. We haven't solved that problem. We still have a

revenue shortfall compared to expense. But we've taken a big, big bite out of the problem, but the problem hasn't gone away. As I said earlier, we know we've got \$300,000 of FEMA cleanup costs not paid for that we're going to have to take care over the next year or so.

MR. RUMLEY: True. That's true. Okay. Have you got anything you want to add, Robert?

Anything? If not, we'll move here to -- on down to Don, Don Townsend. I'll let him read our financial report.

MR. TOWNSEND: The financial report is as of August 31st. That happens to be yesterday, so it's only a few hours' old and it's -- the paper is still kind of warm and it's very short tonight because of that. We'll have a more in-depth report next month as well as a special called meeting.

The general fund has a balance of \$226,990; Federal Asset Fund, U.S. Treasury, \$285; Special Sheriff's Fund, \$1,483; Drug Abuse Education Fund, \$92,823; Supplemental Juvenile Services Fund, \$19,659; Victim Assistance Fund, \$3,066; Jail Fund, \$14,458, Federal Asset Fund, Department of Justice, \$3,660; payroll account, \$26,988. Principal and interest account, \$146,604. S.P.L.O.S.T projects

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account \$389,498; proceeds account \$1,255,488; construction account, \$19,063.

A couple of things to note is under the proceeds account, again, you know, \$1.2 million, but we have a bond payment coming up in, I believe, October or November of \$1.1 million and so we've collected -- by statute we have to collect our money in the proceeds account prior to spending money in the projects account. We did receive a bill, I think, this week of 96, 93,000 for a couple of roads that were paved in Dade County. One being Sunset, I believe, continuing on around and also the top of Burkhalter.

MR. RUMLEY: That's right.

MR. TOWNSEND: So we have the funds available to expense to that and that's a good thing to see some roads paved. And I also note, again, that the balance of the general fund is 226,990. Now, yesterday the State sends the money now pretty much on the last day of the month and we just received \$175,943.09. So yesterday it was getting rather short again and very close, but after the L.O.S.T., the Local Option comes in, that did beef that up just a little bit.

S.P.L.O.S.T, again, reviewing that

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collection was \$219,928.05. And some of the things we've been doing today, we received grant funds today from the American Recovery Act, which included an award that we received -- we received this -this will be the fifth payment that we've received from the Edward Brian Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, which is basically a JAG grant. This is for our courtroom security officer that's paid for by this grant, \$3,521 that we received today. Also, we received \$14,075 through the USDA in our C grant. That's to pay for the soil conservationist's, Joe Lee, position and I was going to say that we have -we did transfer from the proceeds to the project account \$439,372. Now that we've maximized our accrual for the proceeds account to make the bond payment and so if we can continue to bring in that 220,000 that we've seen, that will be some money that we can actually expense on things such as roads, radios and other capital assets. Thank you. MR. RUMLEY: Any questions for Don?

Mitchell, do you have anything?

MR. SMITH: No.

MR. RUMLEY: If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the financial report.

MR. CERVELLI: So moved.

1 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. 2 hear a second? 3 MR. GOFF: I'll second. 4 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call a vote. 5 Mr. Cervelli? 6 MR. CERVELLI: Yes. 7 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff? MR. GOFF: Yes. 9 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith? 10 MR. SMITH: Yes. 11 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes. 12 Thank you, Don. Good job. 13 All right. Robin, do you want -- have 14 you got, maybe discuss some happenings in the county 15 here legally? 16 MR. ROGERS: Well, the only two 17 matters -- well, we've discussed the forestry 18 commission issue. The only other thing, the county 19 has been -- some county officials have been named in 20 a lawsuit by someone who was arrested here earlier 21 in the county and that matter has been turned over 22 to our insurance carrier and they've -- are 23 defending the matter for us and as I understand, a 24 motion to dismiss has been filed in the case. So 25 when something happens with that, I'll --

MR. RUMLEY: Pretty much pertaining to 1 2 the jail or the sheriff's department and --3 MR. ROGERS: Yes. 4 MR. RUMLEY: Were there several people 5 named? 6 MR. ROGERS: There were several people 7 There were named officials as well as 8 unnamed employees. It was filed pro se, meaning not 9 by an attorney. It's difficult to determine exactly 10 what was alleged, but there were various officials 11 and unnamed officials. 12 MR. RUMLEY: What year did this happen? I mean, did it say? 13 14 MR. ROGERS: It did not say. There 15 were some events that there were years assigned to 16 it, but most were not and for the most part, it was 17 several years ago. I mean, so it was nothing recent 18 that occurred. 19 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. But you've actually 20 referred it to ACCG, which is our carrier? 21 MR. ROGERS: That's correct. Referred it to ACCG and they have obtained various things 22 23 like this previously. 24 MR. RUMLEY: Any questions pertaining 25 to that? Don, do you want to go -- as far as

unfinished business, we don't have any, but on our new business, Don, do you want to read our consent agenda and then I'll entertain a motion pertaining to that.

MR. TOWNSEND: The consent agenda includes the approval of the agenda, approval of previous meeting minutes, review of the head count report tonight, Resolution R-26-11, which is a resolution regarding reduction of county personnel, cost and granting authority to county executive to change hours of operations, regarding updating furlough beginning Monday and agreement -- amendment number two with Chevron Energy Solutions Company, which will be writing a resolution. That will be R-27-11.

MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Any questions,

Peter? Any changes or any comments? I'll entertain
a motion pertaining to the consent agenda.

MR. SMITH: Motion to approve the consent agenda.

MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. GOFF: Second.

MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I'll call a vote.
Mr. Cervelli?

MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

MR. GOFF: Yes.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: Yes.

MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

Thank you.

Okay. I skipped over appearances. I was going to put it down here. Is Debbie here tonight with the Chamber? Butch, do you want to tell us about the duck race?

MR. RAPER: I don't really have a report as far as what all the Chamber did, but I did just want to remind everybody that we have the Kiwanis fundraiser, annual fundraiser for the duck race happening September 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the 10th, next Saturday. The following Saturday, as a reminder, we also have the annual Chamber banquet at the Civic Center Downtown at 6:00 p.m. If everybody had their tickets earlier in March, you don't necessarily have to worry about it. Your name is listed. I hope everybody comes out. It will be an enjoyable event and recognize some strong people in our community. Hope to see everybody there. Thank you.

MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Butch. I don't know if you could understand him out in TV land there, but September -- what was the date on that?

MR. RAPER: September 10th for the duck race and September 17th for the Chamber banquet.

MR. RUMLEY: Okay. September 10th is the annual duck race down at R Haven down at Butch's place. That's always a good Saturday. We have a good time, good crowd hopefully.

MR. CERVELLI: There's one other meeting, Butch. September 20th we're going to do a kickoff for next year's festival. So if you're an organization or individual that wants to get involved in planning what our next year's festival will be, we're going to have a kickoff meeting on September 20th at the Civic Center at 6:00 p.m. There's a bunch of stuff coming up for the community and maybe we'll see you at all of those things.

MR. RUMLEY: Yeah. And also, the 17th, as Butch was saying, is the actual Chamber banquet that was scheduled during the tornado episode and so those of you that have tickets, they're still good. Hopefully they haven't been washed in the washing machine or whatever. And those of you that do not, they're still available,

1 right? 2 MR. CERVELLI: Or you can claim you had 3 one, either one. 4 MR. RUMLEY: How much are they, Butch? 5 MR. RAPER: They are \$25. 6 MR. CERVELLI: I have mine by the way. 7 I know where they are. 8 MR. RUMLEY: \$25, and that covers the 9 banquet. You have food for people that don't know. It's a real good supper or dinner. Try to get out 10 11 and support these organizations. 12 MR. RAPER: Our speaker for the banquet is still David Carol. He will be here. He will be 13 14 signing his book as well. That's another --15 MR. RUMLEY: Is he with 3, 9 or 12? I 16 knew you didn't know that. I think it's 3. Butch is saying Channel 4. Everybody knows David Carol 17 and he has got a book. It's pretty interesting. We 18 19 appreciate that. 20 Okay. Anyone else want to come up and talk to us, tonight? Buddy, have you got anything? 21 22 The mayor of West Brow back there, he's got 23 something on his mind. 24 MR. CERVELLI: He's got two new stores 25 up there, local stores.

1 MR. RUMLEY: If not, do y'all have 2 anything you want to add? 3 MR. GOFF: The only other thing I would 4 add is if you have nothing else to do tomorrow 5 night, we have our home opener football game at the 6 high school. It's that bunch from Bartow County in 7 Adairsville, so come out and watch us win. 8 MR. RUMLEY: What time does it start 9 now? 10 MR. GOFF: 7:30. 11 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate all of y'all 12 being here. 13 UNIDENTIFIED CITIZEN: I would like to 14 thank the road department for fixing Burkhalter Gap 15 for us. My my, it sure is nice. 16 MR. RUMLEY: We'll get some reflectors 17 on it before long. Have they striped it yet, Billy? 18 MR. MASSENGALE: No. They want to wait 19 so many days and let the oil get off of it before they put a coat on it. They will have it done by 20 21 the end of the month. 22 MR. RUMLEY: That was really needed 23 badly. Okay. If there's no more, I'll entertain a 24 motion to adjourn. 25 MR. SMITH: Motion to adjourn.

MR. RUMLEY: Okay. All in favor?

ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

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COUNTY OF HAMILTON:

I, Erin M. Flatt, LCR #307, CCR, licensed court reporter and notary public, in and for the State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that the above hearing was reported by me and that the foregoing 28 pages of the transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability.

I further certify that I am not related to nor an employee of counsel or any of the parties to the action, nor am I in any way financially interested in the outcome of this case.

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